



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 6240-064]

Watson Associates; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment

On August 27, 2021, Watson Associates filed a relicense application for the 265-kilowatt Watson Dam Hydroelectric Project No. 6240 (project). The project is located on the Cocheco River in Strafford County, New Hampshire. The project does not occupy federal land.

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, on August 23, 2022, Commission staff issued a notice that the project was ready for environmental analysis (REA Notice). Based on the information in the record, including comments filed on the REA Notice, staff does not anticipate that licensing the project would constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, staff intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the application to relicense the project.

The EA will be issued and circulated for review by all interested parties. All comments filed on the EA will be analyzed by staff and considered in the Commission's final licensing decision.

The application will be processed according to the following schedule. Revisions to the schedule may be made as appropriate.

MILESTONE	TARGET DATE
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Commission issues EA	May 2023 ¹
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Comments on EA	June 2023
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Any questions regarding this notice may be directed to Michael Watts at (202) 502-6123 or michael.watts@ferc.gov.

Dated: November 8, 2022.

¹ The Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations under 40 CFR 1501.10(b)(1) require that EAs be completed within 1 year of the federal action agency's decision to prepare an EA. This notice establishes the Commission's intent to prepare an EA for the Watson Dam Hydroelectric Project. Therefore, in accordance with CEQ's regulations, the EA must be issued within 1 year of the issuance date of this notice.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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